

# PEACE PASSAGES

Volume 39, Number 2, February 2020

Peace Lutheran Church  
514 Freedom Drive – P.O. Box 333  
Arlington, MN 55307-0333

Sunday School – 8:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Church Phone Number

507-964-2959

E-mail address

peacelutheran1982@gmail.com

Web Site

[www.peacelutheranarlington.org](http://www.peacelutheranarlington.org)

Rev. Dan Ritter

Vacancy Pastor

Sheila Henke

Administrative Secretary

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the people at Peace is to be disciples of Our Lord who grow in grace and use the Word and sacraments to obey His command to make disciples of all nations.

“I will never leave you or forsake you”  
Hebrew 13:5

Dear friends and members of Peace,

I heard this story about two horses in a field. From a distance each horse looked like any other horse. But if you stopped your car or walked by, you would notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse would quickly disclose that he is blind.

The owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. That too is amazing. If nearby and listening, one will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, one will soon see it comes from the smaller horse in that field.

Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is so he can follow her. As people stand and watch these two horses, they see how the smaller horse is always checking on him and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is; trusting that she will not lead him astray.

When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear her bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God doesn't throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have some problems or challenges in life. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are like the blind horse guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God has placed in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others to see their way. Good friends are like this; we may not always see them, but we know they are always there. God has promised; “I will never leave you or forsake you.” Listen for one another's bell. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone we meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Toward the end of the month of February, we have Ash Wednesday to remind us of the battle Jesus undertook for us and for our salvation. Perhaps I will be with you yet or I may not depending when the Call for your new Pastor is filled. In either case I have greatly enjoyed my time with you this past year and may God richly continue to bless you all.

In His love,  
*Pastor Dan*

### **VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES**

The congregation of Peace Lutheran Church held a special meeting of the voters for the purpose of sending a call on December 29, 2019, following Sunday morning service. Dave Halquist called the meeting to order, and Pastor John Stern began with a prayer for guidance.

As a correction to the annual election; the President recommended the appointment of these members: Candice Tostenson to the Board of education; Phyllis Kroehler to BESS as a 1 yr. replacement appointment; and Morris Mesenbring to the Endowment Fund board. A motion carried to approve the change and appointments.

The original purpose of the meeting followed with questions about Pastor Schnelle receiving our call. The call committee has spoken with him twice providing the information.

A motion to call Pastor Aaron Schnelle was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,  
Pauline Wiemann

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

The council of Peace Lutheran Church met January 15, 2020, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bob Wavrin called the meeting to order, and Brian Bullert began with a prayer.

The secretary's minutes and financial secretary's report were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$28,230.90 in the general fund.

A motion carried to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills presented.

Pastor Stern has communed the shut-ins in January.

BESS board asked about funds to use for projects since they do not operate with a budget. It was agreed that request for money for any projects will be made to the council.

President Dave reviewed the visit from Pastor Schnelle and his family last week. The elders are working on the membership list and its validity.

The special project offering for February will be the Lutheran Hour.

The schedule for providing meals for the Lenten pre-services will be: March 4<sup>th</sup> – BESS; March 11<sup>th</sup> – Youth group; March 18<sup>th</sup> – board of education; March 25<sup>th</sup> – trustees and elders; April 1 – executive board. Determination of the use of funds raised will be made later.

Pastor Ritter will be contacted about pulpit services in Lent pending the answer to the call.

Someone using the building is leaving doors unlocked and lights on. Everyone was reminded to be careful.

A motion carried to purchase a DVD player for the youth room.

The west parking lot overhead light has not worked for a long time. The trustees will contact the city about replacement.

A discussion was held concerning possible housing for a pastor.

A motion carried to give the undesignated funds (\$85) for the use of BESS.

A motion carried to adjourn, and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,  
Pauline Wiemann

### **Our Lenten Focus**

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us to reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself or less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.

### **Burden Bearers**

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it. But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as "Jesus' body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world...We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy...and suffer with the sufferers. -Phillip Yancey,  
*Where Is God When It Hurts?*

### **In The Image of Love**

While using play therapy with young cancer patients, social worker Amy Jandrisevits found that kids identify best with dolls that resemble them – yet doll diversity was rare.

As described in Gather magazine, she launched a line call "A Doll Like Me" that customizes dolls not only to "a child's ethnicity, gender, hair color and interests, but also their physical characteristics such as clefts, birthmarks, scars and limb differences." She adds, "It is more than just a doll to a child; it is a representation of the child who owns it." So far, Jandrisevits has made 300+ dolls for kids worldwide – a project she considers to be a ministry.

Dolls representing cast human differences are a profound reminder that God infused the world with variety and pronounced it good. Just as each custom-made doll is made in the image of the child who will adopt and love it, we're made in the image of God, who claims us as his beloved children forever.

### **Heavenly Appearance**

Our omnipresent God shows up in some unexpected places. People have “miraculously” seen Jesus’ face on everything from junk food to a rusty water tank. We don’t know what Jesus looked like, of course, but Scripture indicates his appearance was rather ordinary: “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him (Isaiah 53:2, NIV).

On one occasion, however, Jesus’ “face was majestically transformed. At His Transfiguration, observed by many churches on the Sunday before Lent, Jesus’ “face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Matthew 17:2, ESV). Some disciples witnessed Jesus’ glory – which will be ours, thanks to his death and resurrection. As 1 John 3:2 (NIV) promises: “When Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

### **Quotable Quotes**

- “A smile is the light in your window<sup>3</sup> that tells others that there is caring, sharing person inside.”  
-Dennis Waitley
- “Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.”  
-Anne Lamott
- “There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved.”  
-George Sand

### **Better Together**

Racial reconciliation is a hot topic among Christians these days. In Sikeston, Missouri, which has a history of segregation, two church bodies recently decided to live out the gospel’s message of unity by merging.

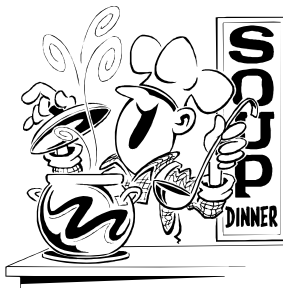
Kenny King, pastor of the mostly black Smith Chapel and William Marshall, pastor of the mostly white Trinity Baptist, had become friends. They realized both churches, while healthy, were undergoing transitions, so they joined forces. The new congregation’s name, Grace Bible Fellowship, represents God’s grace and the grace we extend to others – no matter their skin color.

“We want to ... give people the benefit of the doubt instead of letting these issues divide us,” King says. “The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to keep together and not keep us separated.”

### **Lovely Superlatives**

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to fund him the greatest human achievement.

-St. Augustine



The “Feeding of the 500 Club” will meet on February 17, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Please feel free to join us.

**The office hours for September through May are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 a.m. – noon and Wednesday 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**NEWSLETTER” DEADLINE**  
Items for the March “Newsletter” are due in the church office by noon on Monday, February 17, 2020

- February Readers**
- 2/2 Pauline Wiemann & Lowell Nagel**
  - 2/9 Paris Kube & Olivia Halquist**
  - 2/16 Steve Peterson & Juanita Kube**
  - 2/23 Jen Otto & Nikki Stock**



**Peace Guild**

**Altar Committee for February**  
2/1-2/9 Jen Otto & Juanita Kube  
2/10-2/29 Joleen Dose & Jen Carpenter

**Kitchen Committee for February**  
Pam Bullert

**In Other Words**

We’re so accustomed to hearing the Bible’s “love chapter,” I Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words.

What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message Bible* reveal to you?

**USHER/ACOLYTE SCHEDULE  
For February**

**Elder  
Howard Brinkmann**

**Acolyte  
Feb. 2           Gracie St. John  
Feb. 9           Spencer Tuchtenhagen  
Feb. 16          Zachary Weckwerth  
Feb. 23          Chaldin Wisch**

**USHERS**

**February 2, 2020**

\*Tom Neubarth           Karl Neubarth  
Shawn Neubarth         Steve Peterson

**February 9, 2020       Holy Communion –  
Special Project Offering**

\*Mike Scharping         Brett Scharping  
Matt Scharping         Kiri In

**February 16, 2020 Holy Communion**

\*Bill Pinske             Mark Stien  
Rhonda Stien            Alivia Strack

**February 23, 2020**

\*Daryl St. John         Lori St. John  
Arayah St. John        Daryl Thurn

**Awaiting the Call**

The question we must ask our heart is, "Am I comfortable under the eye of God? Or is God getting too close? We are strange and lovely creatures. We can ache for God tremendously yet find ourselves getting nervous if God gets too close. After all, the closer God gets, the more we hear the call to be divinized. It is both exciting and frightening to hear that call.

-MacRina Wiederkehr

**The Very Best Valentine**

Almost everyone – at least of the female persuasion – knows the romantic meaning of the phrase "hearts and flowers."

Valentine's Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend...my husband...my best friend? I'm hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14<sup>th</sup>. But even if he doesn't come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring – always surrounding me with love and more love. These are the best "hearts and flowers" I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine's Day and throughout eternity.

-Sandy Hyland

**A Prayer for Ash Wednesday**

Lord of the winds,  
I cry to thee,  
I that am dust,  
and blown about  
by every gust  
I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters,  
unto thee I call.  
I that am weed  
upon the waters borne,  
and by the waters torn,  
tossed by the waters,  
at thy feet I fall.

Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)